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Viewing cable 05MANAMA1672, EUR A/S FRIED MEETS WITH SWISS STATE SECRETARY

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- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
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Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
05MANAMA1672	2005-11-14 10:58	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Manama

Appears in these articles:

http://www.letemps.ch/swiss_papers

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MANAMA 001672

SIPDIS

BERN PLEASE PASS TO DAN WEYGANDT

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/13/2015

TAGS: [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [KMPI](#) [BA](#) [SW](#)

SUBJECT: EUR A/S FRIED MEETS WITH SWISS STATE SECRETARY
MICHAEL AMBUEHL, NOVEMBER 11, 2005, MANAMA, BAHRAIN

Classified By: DCM Susan L. Ziadeh for reasons 1.4 b, d.

[1](#). (SBU) Meeting held on November 11, 2005, 11:00, at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Manama, Bahrain

[2](#). (SBU) Participants:

U.S.
A/S Fried
Blake Thorkleson, NEA/MEPI
Leslie Tsou (TDY Notetaker)

Switzerland
State Secretary Michael Ambuehl
Guillaume Scheurer, MFA Minister Counselor

[3](#). (C) Summary. On the margins of the Forum for the Future Senior Officials Meeting November 11 in Bahrain, Swiss State Secretary Michael Ambuehl told Assistant Secretary for

SIPDIS

European Affairs Dan Fried that Switzerland wants to strengthen and deepen relations with the U.S., not only bilaterally but internationally and multilaterally as well. A/S Fried accepted Ambuehl's suggestion that the U.S. and Switzerland conclude a Joint Statement laying out the ways in which the two countries can cooperate, especially in the international arena. Ambuehl affirmed that Switzerland is looking to redefine its traditional concept of neutrality to play a more active international role in the 21st century; Switzerland's long federalist history, for example, would make it an ideal advisor to the Iraqi government as Iraq's own federalist system develops. End summary.

Strengthening U.S.-Swiss Ties

14. (C) Switzerland wants to strengthen its relations with the U.S., Ambuehl told A/S Fried. Noting how much the two governments have in common in almost every sector, from political and economic affairs to security and the global war on terrorism, Ambuehl urged broader cooperation on the bilateral, international, and multilateral levels.

15. (C) Ambuehl suggested that the U.S. and Switzerland sign a Joint Statement that would show a visible strengthening of cooperation across the board. A/S Fried agreed, urging that the statement focus on what the U.S. and Switzerland can do around the world to support freedom and common values. He noted EUR/AGS Director Dan Weygandt will be in Switzerland for meetings starting November 14, and will be empowered to discuss how such a statement would take shape.

New Role for Switzerland

16. (C) Ambuehl agreed that Switzerland is seeking to redefine its traditional neutrality to fit 21st century realities and find ways where it can play a positive international role. For example, Switzerland has a long history of federalism that might lend itself well to advising the Iraqis as their federalist system develops. A/S Fried welcomed this idea. He pointed out the relevance of Partnership for Peace member Switzerland's tradition of humanitarian assistance given the increasing expansion of NATO's humanitarian role, as demonstrated by its assistance to Pakistan after the earthquake. A/S Fried noted that the U.S. had supported Switzerland's participation in the U.S.-European Ministerial Lunch in New York last September at the UNGA and the Dinner planned for December in Brussels.

Forum for the Future/Magen David Adom Issue

18. (C) A/S Fried thanked Switzerland for its financial contribution to the Forum for the Future, and congratulated the Swiss government on the December 5-6 diplomatic conference that aims to resolve the Magen David Adom issue. Ambuehl asked that language be inserted into the Chairman's Statement that he said would help Switzerland resolve the issue (in the end, the language was offered too late to be included in the Chairman's Statement).

19. (U) This message has been cleared by A/S Fried.

MONROE